



COON RAPIDS *Connection*

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New Location for Green Expo



Ideas for Sustainable Living

The Green Expo will be bigger and better for 2014! Thanks to a new partnership with the National Sports Center, the City of Blaine and the City of Coon Rapids, the Green Expo will now offer even more exciting opportunities to learn about sustainable living options! The new location of the Schwan Center, located on the campus at the National Sports Center in Blaine, will allow for more event space to showcase a variety of vendors, products and services.

This FREE event provides a great opportunity for the public to learn about a variety of ideas to live a sustainable lifestyle. From educational topics, products and services to several speakers, the Green Expo will provide guests with great information... all in one place!

Event Details:
Saturday, May 10, 2014
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Schwan Center
located on the
National Sports Center Campus
1750 – 105th Ave. NE
Blaine, MN 55449

More information:
www.MNGreenExpo.org

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Riverview Park Renovations

Big changes are coming to Riverview Park! Renovations are set to begin this fall and plans call for a variety of improvements for this busy city park including a new playground, multi-purpose building with restrooms, skate park and re-arranged parking. Under the new plan, all parking will be located off of 105th Avenue, eliminating the need for visitors to use Uplander Street as an access point to get into the park. Ball fields four and five will also be relocated as part of the renovations. The ballfields are home to the Coon Rapids National Little League.

Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator says, "Basically the park hasn't been touched in about 30 years, so the playground, parking arrangements, facilities and warming house are all rundown and ready for replacement."

Trail enhancements to Sand Creek Linkage Trail, Mississippi Regional Trail and Coon Creek Regional Trail are also top priorities for the City. Connecting gaps and improving connections throughout the system is key, as well as upgrading all trails to state standards (which includes making the trails wider for greater accessibility).

The funding of the Riverview Park renovation as well as the trail enhancements is possible thanks to a park bond, approved by voters in November of 2013. To view the entire Riverview Park Master Plan,



A new playground at Riverview Park will be one of many improvements taking place this fall.

visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Neighborhood Park Improvements

Peppermint Stick Park will be renovated this summer. Improvements will include new playground equipment, trail upgrades and other amenities. The renovations will be paid for with the City's Capital Park Improvement Funds. A new picnic shelter will also be added to Sunrise Pond Park.

Community strength...for generations

Mayor's Corner

I'd like to begin my column this month by saying THANK YOU to the members of the 2014 Snowflake Days planning committee. Several community members came together to organize a fantastic community celebration for the 50th anniversary of Snowflake Days...and fantastic it was! From the kids and adult medallion hunts to the ice fishing tournament and children's carnival, this year's celebration was a huge success! The events were well-attended, the community came out in spite of the cold weather, and we all had a great time! Special thanks to Diane Buszta for her amazing leadership during this event and

to John Leggate for being the Snowflake Days marquis.

As we say good bye to winter and hello to spring, I hope you will find the time to get "out of hibernation" and get involved with some of our community activities. We have the Ice Fantasy show coming up in April at the Coon Rapids Ice Center, Movie in the Park events at Sand Creek Park, "Summer in the City" meetings and more! These events provide a great opportunity to connect with other members of the community.

Mayor Tim Howe

City Meetings CALENDAR

(All meetings held at the Coon Rapids City Center unless otherwise noted.)

City Council Meetings

April 1 & 15, May 6 & 20 and June 3 & 17
7:00 p.m.

Arts Commission (Note Change)

April 16, May 21 and June 18 • 6:00 p.m.

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

April 3, May 1 and June 5 • 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

April 17, May 15 and June 19 • 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

(Note Change)

April 14, May 12 and June 9 • 6:30 p.m.
Public Works Garage

Planning Commission

April 17, May 15 and June 19 • 6:30 p.m.

Safety Commission

May 8 • 7:15 p.m.

Sustainability Commission

April 17, May 15 and June 19 • 6:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed:

May 26th, 2014

Schedule subject to change. Contact the staff liaison at 763-755-2880 to confirm.

Public notices are published in the City's official newspaper, The Anoka County UnionHerald, and on the website: www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Watch community programming on CTN!

Local news, sports, City Council and
Planning Commission meetings, special events and more!

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SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

2014 COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL



Mayor

Tim Howe

763-755-8850

thowe@coonrapidsmn.gov

COUNCILMEMBERS



Ward 1

Denise Klint

763-576-8488

dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 2

Ron Manning

763-755-9128

rmanning@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 3

Paul Johnson

763-755-1179

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Ward 4

Jerry Koch

763-767-1811

jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 5

Bruce Sanders

763-757-8486

bsanders@coonrapidsmn.gov



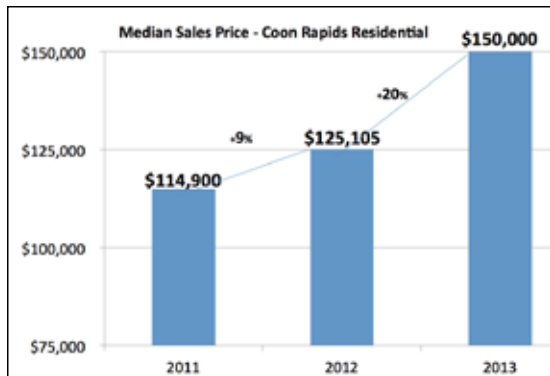
At Large

Steve Wells

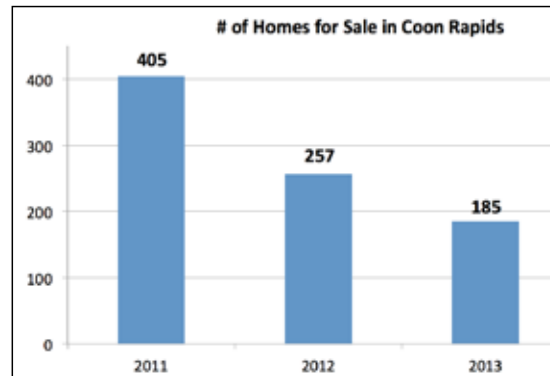
763-323-4984

swells@coonrapidsmn.gov

Home Values on the Rise in Coon Rapids

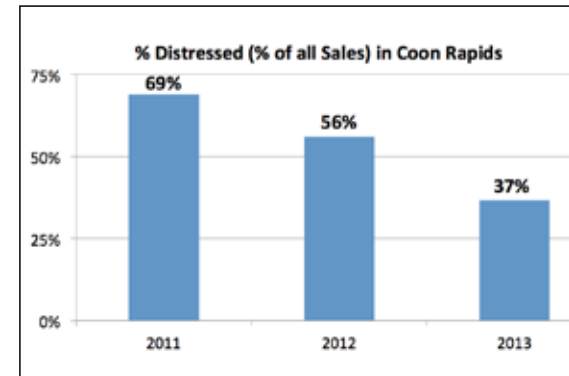


The median sales price of single-family residential properties in the City of Coon Rapids has increased over the past two years after several years of declining values. For calendar year 2013, the median sale price increased 20 percent compared to 2012. The median sales price was \$150,000 in 2013, compared to \$125,105 in 2012.



What is causing the rise in median sales price? Median sales price is tied to supply and demand and in 2013, there were fewer homes on the market as compared to 2011 and 2012. This reduced inventory helped sellers achieve a higher sales price for their homes, which has raised the overall median sales price in the city.

**Chart shows monthly average based on 12 months prior to 12/31 of each year.



The number of foreclosures and short sales are going down. In 2013, 37 percent of all the real estate sales in the City were considered foreclosures and short sales, down from 56 percent in 2012 and 69 percent in 2011. A short sale is a sale where the bank allows the homeowner to sell the home for less than the amount owed on the mortgage.

According to Mike Hunstad, Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors, "We have fewer foreclosures than we did in 2012. We also have fewer short sales going on right now than we did in 2012, so most of the market in Coon Rapids is made up of traditional sellers."

Neighborhood Coordinator Kristin DeGrande says, "This is a great sign for our local housing market and shows it is

stabilizing. The median sales price in Coon Rapids is increasing at a higher rate as compared to Anoka County and the Twin Cities metro area. This is a great sign for the future of Coon Rapids."

The data cited above is from the Minneapolis Area Association of Realtors. To learn more: <http://thething.mplsrealtor.com/interactive>.

Housing Facts

Increase in median sales price (2012 to 2013)

19.9% - Coon Rapids

15.1% - Anoka County

14.4% - Twin Cities

Data from the Minneapolis Area Association of Realtors

2014 Tree Sale

New varieties this year! Has the winter weather taken a toll on your trees? Are you in the market for a new one? If so, check out the City of Coon Rapids tree sale! As part of Arbor Day, the City will be selling a limited number of trees to residents. The tree varieties include: Black Cherry, Prairiefire Crabapple, Japanese Tree Lilac, Spring Snow Crabapple, Autumn Blaze Maple, Accolade Elm, Skyline Honey-locust, Quaking Aspen, River Birch (potted) Hackberry (potted), Swamp White Oak (potted) and apple trees including the Honeycrisp and Snow Sweet apple varieties.



The trees will be sold in bare root form (although some are potted), ranging from six to eight feet in

height. The cost varies, between \$15.00 and \$70.00, depending on the species. Payment can be made on the day of tree pick-up. Cash or check only. Limit four trees per household.

Trees must be pre-ordered with the City Forester by **April 24**. Call 763-767-6455 to place your order.

The trees will be available for pick-up on **Friday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Public Works Garage, 1831 – 111th Ave. NW. If you are not able to pick up your trees, a neighbor or friend may pick them up for you.

More information and photos of the tree varieties can be viewed at www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Bare root trees must be planted the same day they are picked up. Contact Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002 at least two working days in advance to have underground utility lines located and marked. The City does not assume responsibility for the successful transplanting of trees.

Education for Townhome Owners

The City of Coon Rapids hosts Townhome Forums throughout the year to provide helpful information to members of townhome associations. Guest speakers are brought in to talk about a wide range of topics specific to townhome associations, which has become increasingly popular over the years. Recent topics have included: financial reserves, foreclosures, allowing rental units in associations, homeowners insurance and protecting vacant units. These meetings are free and open to the public.

If you would like to receive invitations for future Townhome Forum meetings, please register your contact information at: www.coonrapidsmn.gov/housing/index.htm.

If you are interested in reading about past topics and the related handouts, please visit: www.coonrapidsmn.gov/housing/Townhomes.htm.

2014 Candidate Filing - City Offices

Coon Rapids voters will have many choices to make during this year's election. Due to redistricting boundary changes in 2012, Councilmembers Paul Johnson and Bruce Sanders were both placed in Ward 3, leaving Ward 5 as an open seat beginning in 2015. Three seats in all are open on this year's ballot. Councilmembers Johnson and Sanders have decided not to seek re-election, as well as Mayor Tim Howe.

Any qualified voter may be a candidate for public office in the City of Coon Rapids by filing an Affidavit of Candidacy with the



City Clerk and paying a \$10 filing fee. For Ward positions, you must reside within the boundaries of the designated ward (see the ward

locations here: www.coonrapidsmn.gov/clerk/pdf/Polling2014web.pdf), while the Mayoral office is elected city-wide. Candidate names appear on ballots without party designation in municipal elections. The term of office for Mayor and Councilmembers is four years.

A Primary Election is necessary if more than two candidates file for office in any open position. The Primary Election is scheduled for August 12, 2014. To be included on the Primary Ballot, candidates must file for office between **Tuesday, May 20 and Tuesday, June 3** during regular office hours. The deadline to

withdraw an affidavit of candidacy is **5 p.m. on June 5, 2014.**

Affidavits of Candidacy for any City of Coon Rapids elected position can be filed at Coon Rapids City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 11155 Robinson Drive, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Candidate filing packets will be available on May 1, 2014 at www.coonrapidsmn.gov. For more detailed election and voter information please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us or contact the City Clerk's office at clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6493.

2014 Street Reconstruction



sewer and water main facilities.

Streets or neighborhoods involved in the reconstruction plans include:

- The area generally west of Blackfoot Street between 119th Avenue NW and 121st Avenue NW, in addition to streets adjacent to Hanson Boulevard between 113th Avenue NW and Robinson Drive.
- Round Lake Boulevard between 115th Avenue NW and approximately 450 feet south of Main Street.
- In the area around Hanson Boulevard between 107th Avenue NW and 113th Avenue NW.
- In the area generally north of Coon Rapids Boulevard between 101st Avenue NW and 103rd Avenue NW as well as a second area just west of East River Road, generally between Mississippi Boulevard NW and 90th Avenue NW.

Work crews ask motorists for their patience during construction. Please obey the posted work

zone speed limits and follow the recommended detours, both of which are designed with public safety in mind.

The City is also maintaining over 17 miles of roadway as part of a seal coating process.

To see a complete map showing all of the reconstruction and seal coating projects visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Anoka County Road Construction Projects in Coon Rapids:

- A new traffic signal will be put in place at the intersection of Coon Rapids Boulevard and Springbrook Drive. A raised concrete median will also be added on Springbrook Drive and turn lane modifications will be made. Construction is expected to begin this summer.
- The intersection of Crooked Lake Boulevard and Northdale Boulevard will be enhanced with redesigned turn lanes and a new traffic signal. Construction is expected to begin this summer.
- University Avenue will be reconstructed from approximately Northdale Boulevard to Main Street, making it a four lane divided roadway. Major intersections will also be reconstructed to include turn lanes. A proposed pedestrian/bike path will also improve safety. Construction is expected to begin sometime in 2014.
- Foley Boulevard will be reconstructed from 101st Ave. NW to Egret Boulevard. Construction is expected to begin in the summer or fall of this year.

Information on these projects can be found on the Anoka County website: www.anokacounty.org then click on Highway Department.

Summer in the City Neighborhood Meetings

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the "Summer in the City" neighborhood meetings. This annual series is a great opportunity to meet councilmembers and talk with City staff about projects going on in your neighborhood and throughout the city.

Tuesday, June 24

Sunrise Pond Park, 125 – 124th Lane

Tuesday, July 22

Peppermint Stick Park, 11480 Raven Street

Tuesday, July 29

Lions Coon Creek Park, 1664 – 119th Ave.

Tuesday, August 26

Riverwind Park, 11747 Crocus Street

The events run from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Fire trucks, police squad cars, public works equipment and other displays will also be on hand for residents to view.

Save the Date!



Coon Rapids Kids Safety Camp

July 22 & 23, 2014

Sand Creek Park

Kids learn a variety of skills to help them stay safe! More information online in mid-May!

2014 Quintile Review

State law requires tax assessors to physically visit each property within their jurisdiction once every five years. This review of properties is called the "Quintile Review".

There are approximately 21,000 residential properties in Coon Rapids. During each quintile review period, the staff of the Coon Rapids Assessing Department visits and reviews approximately one fifth of the properties (about 4,200).

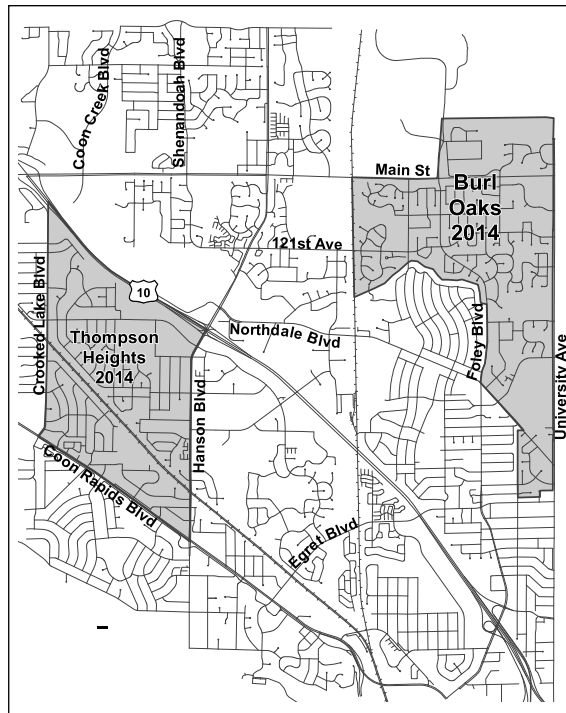
The 2014 residential quintile review area is highlighted on the map to the right.

City staff will be working in the designated areas from March through September.

The Quintile Review is part of the process to determine January 2, 2015 property values, which are the values that will be used to allocate property taxes payable in 2016.

If your home is in the review area this year, here's what you can expect:

- Single-family homes will receive a blue postcard approximately 1-3 weeks prior to the visit to let you know assessing staff will be working in your neighborhood soon.



- City staff may or may not ask to conduct an interior inspection of your home. The decision is based on the information on file. If an interior inspection is needed, the staff member will typically be inside your home for 5-10 minutes

and they will also walk around the outside of your home. If an interior inspection is not needed, the staff person will only need to view the outside of your home and verify the exterior characteristics.

- City staff reviews characteristics of the property that affect market value such as age, size, quality of construction, basement finish, etc.

- If you are not home when the staff person visits, a blue door hanger with instructions will be left at your door. If the instructions indicate an interior inspection is needed, please call the Assessing Department as soon as possible to set up a time for the staff member to come back.

- City staff will be wearing an official City of Coon Rapids identification badge to identify themselves.

In addition to the Quintile Review areas, City staff visit and update information related to construction and remodeling projects throughout the city.

THANK YOU in advance for your cooperation during this year's assessment review. If you have any questions, you may contact the Assessing Department at 763-767-6446 or visit the City website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/assessing.

By now you should have received your 2014 tax statement from Anoka County. Feel free to call, email us (mail@coonrapidsmn.gov) or stop in to City Hall if you have questions.

Solicitors Need a License

It's the time of year when you will start to see more people selling products and services at your door. Did you know these sales people must be licensed with the City? The licensing process includes a background investigation on each sales person and is designed to protect the safety and welfare of residents. All individuals traveling door-to-door selling products or soliciting for commercial business purposes, excluding newspaper and food delivery services, must be licensed by City Hall.

If the individual is licensed, they will be wearing a badge issued by the City which must be worn at all times. They must also carry an official City license. If a peddler or for-profit solicitor comes to your door and is not wearing a City issued badge, please let us know by calling 763-767-6432. Soliciting hours are from 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

If you encounter any issues or have problems with a peddler/solicitor, please contact the Coon Rapids Police Department at 763-767-6481, or in case of emergency, call 911.

Grass Must be Mowed

Soon our lawns will be growing and green once again. In order to help keep our City looking its best, City code requires that all grass and weeds be no taller than 8" in height. Please don't forget to mow along both sides of your fence and along the boulevards. Even if you believe the City or County mows these areas or has in the past, it is important to know that ultimately this is your property and your responsibility to mow. If your grass is taller than 8", you will receive a citation and a fine if you don't mow your lawn within seven days of the citation.

If you would like to report a property that has not been mowed, please call 763-951-7200 or e-mail the complaint to weeds@coonrapidsmn.gov.



Property Valuation Process Forum

Monday, April 14, 2014 • 7:00 p.m.

Coon Rapids City Center
11155 Robinson Drive
(City Council Chambers)

The Assessing Department will host an informational meeting to discuss the valuation process. Topics include:

- Estimated market values and how the values are determined
- The assessing cycle/sales comparable timeline
- The assessment review area
- How value is related to property taxes
- Recent residential housing trends

This meeting is NOT meant to appeal individual values but to discuss how the valuation process works.

Green Expo...Continued from page 1

Event Speakers/Topics

Speaker/Topic	Time	Description
Marcia Baudino <i>Gardener</i>	10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Your Yard: A Food Producing Paradise Spending less money on food while feeding your family healthy options can be challenging for many families. Finding time to manage your menu, while balancing work and family can feel overwhelming. Marcia, a local resident with an average city lot, has transformed her yard into a food producing paradise. She combines permanent raised beds and permaculture (permanent agriculture) to grow her own fruits and vegetables while also purchasing food from local farmers markets. Marcia fills four freezers with meals each season that sustain her family year-round. Marcia will share her story, present photos of her yard and send you home with tips and resources to help you get started in your own yard! A follow up session including question and answer time will be held at 11:45.
Dawn Doering <i>Coon Creek Watershed District</i>	11:30 a.m. - Noon	Groundwater: A Growing Concern One of the top three issues in our ten-year Comprehensive Plan is a trend of lowering water tables that can result in lower water levels in our wetlands, creeks and lakes. Find out what can be done to help protect water that is out of sight, but should definitely not be out of mind.
Dawn Pape <i>Lawn Chair Gardener</i>	12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Planting to Save Water Make your yard work for you...and the Earth too by transforming your yard to conserve water as well as protect area waters from pollution. Local author and columnist, Dawn Pape, will give you the low-down on how easy it is to incorporate features such as rain gardens, native plants and fine-fescues in your current landscape. Not only will you feel good about planting for the future, you'll feel good about saving money on your water bill.
Extension Service Master Gardener from Hennepin County Composting	1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Composting: A Great Way to Help Your Landscape Learn yard and garden practices to reduce the amount of plant waste and while discovering how to reuse the materials in your landscape. Hear a Master Gardener's tips on getting started, the optimal compost recipe and how to maintain and troubleshoot your own compost.
Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Drawing!	2:00 p.m.	Sign up at the main entrance! Other prizes will also be given away!

Event Vendors

Several vendors will feature the latest products and services designed with sustainability in mind.

Learn more about:

- Water conservation
- Home energy conservation
- Transportation alternatives
- Products made from recyclable materials
- Sustainable landscaping techniques
- Electric and hybrid cars
- Radon in your home
- And MORE!

Art projects will also be available for children. For more information about the Green Expo call 763-767-6485 or email csinclair@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Shuttle Bus Service

Park your car and ride from Coon Rapids City Hall to The National Sports Center Campus!

Busses will run approximately every 30 minutes from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Signs will be posted at pick up and drop off locations*

Donate Food

Canned and boxed food items will be collected near the main entrance to benefit local non-profit food shelves in Blaine and Coon Rapids.



Photos of 2013 event



Athletic Gear Swap

Do you have old sports gear gathering dust around the house? Donate it to the Green Expo Athletic Gear Swap! Clean sports equipment, in good working condition, will be accepted. Anyone interested in sports equipment can then sort through the donated items at the Expo and take home what they need!

What to do if you have sports equipment to donate:

- Visit www.MNGreenExpo.org to check out a list of accepted items and register your gear. This helps us know what types of items we will have on the day of the event.

If you are interested in the used equipment:

- Stop by the Athletic Gear Swap, located in Gold Room A at the Schwan Center. Look for what you need and take it home FREE OF CHARGE!

It's a great way to re-purpose used sports equipment and help others at the same time!

**Any items left at the end of the day will be donated to charity.*

Help Reduce Stormwater Pollutants

When it rains, it pollutes! Rain and melting snow wash the landscape free of loose dirt and grime. While this is a good way to spruce up our communities after a long winter or dry spell, it is not good for our lakes, ponds and streams. Materials washed off the land end up in our water areas, where they become harmful pollutants.

You can help keep stormwater pollutants to a minimum! Here are some ways you can help:

- Keep your property and street clean.
- Pick up pet waste on a daily basis.
- Keep lawn fertilizers off paved surfaces and limit use of these chemicals.
- Don't let oil or anti-freeze leak from your vehicle or be washed into the street.
- Keep winter salt use on hard surfaces to a minimum.

Business owners can help by sweeping parking lots often. Contractors can help by keeping streets free of soil erosion. The City helps by sweeping streets several times a year. Remember, the storm sewer is directly connected to our streams, lakes and rivers so please be aware of this if you dispose of certain items by pouring them onto the ground or if they are accidentally spilled. If you spill something that can reach the storm sewer or notice something out of the ordinary (a spill by your neighbor's house, discoloration of the curb, plugged storm sewer inlets, etc.) please contact the Public Works Street Department at 763-767-6462. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

For more information, visit www.cleanwatermn.org



Street Sweeping

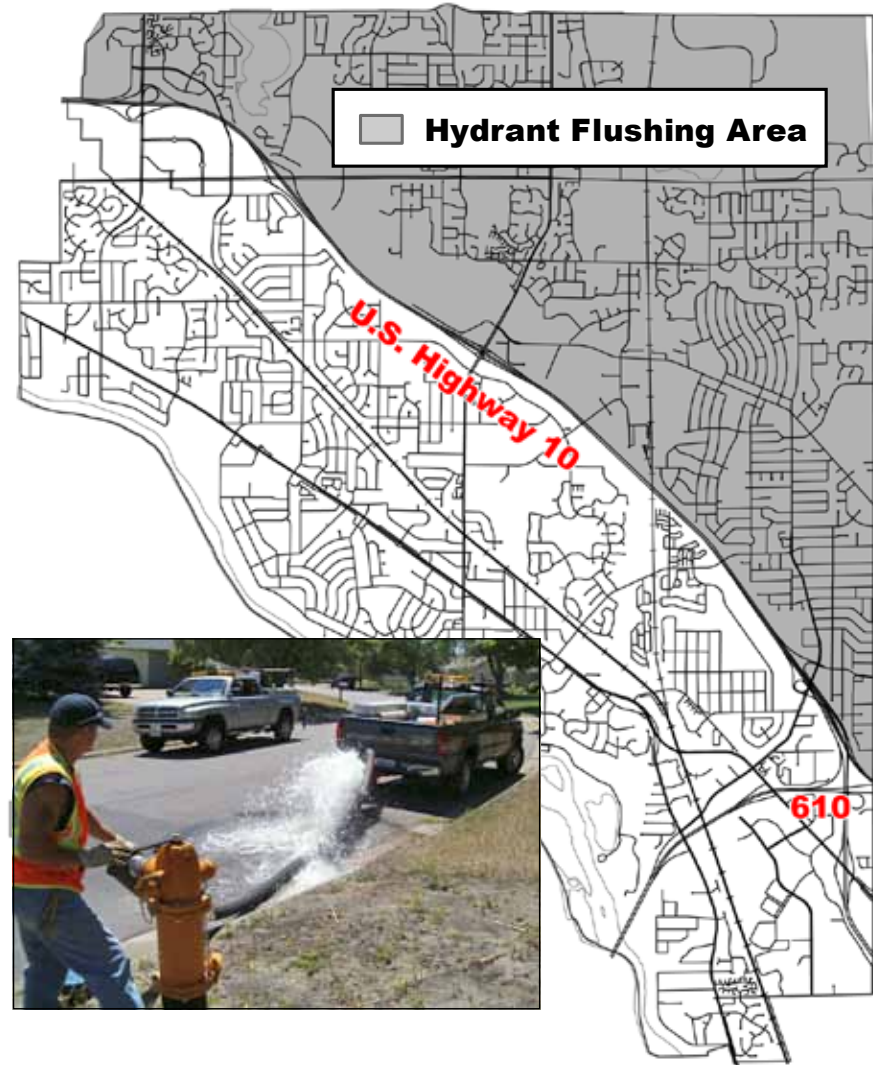
City crews will be out sweeping streets once the snow melts. Crews focus on main streets first, then neighborhoods.

Please do not put grass or leaves in the street. Also, please keep your garbage and recycling cans out of the street. Instead, place them on your driveway.

Thanks for your help!

2014 Hydrant Flushing

Starting April 1, or as soon as the weather permits, the City's utility crews will begin flushing more than 1,300 fire hydrants in the city. The map below shows the area that will be completed this year. The process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the water system and remove sediment from the lines. This allows us to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our residents. If crews are working in your neighborhood, you may experience some water discoloration but this does not affect the safety of the water. It's best to avoid doing laundry until the discoloration has disappeared.



Sprinkling Ban Begins May 1

Odd-numbered home addresses water on odd calendar days.
Even-numbered home addresses water on even calendar days.

This helps to even-out the demand for water treatment and usage.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Home Loan Programs Help Coon Rapids Families

Billie Cassell noticed her home was deteriorating and wondered how she would pay for the repairs. High energy bills had become the norm as the home was losing a lot of heat in the winter.

Cassell says, "I heard about the Home Loan Programs through a Coon Rapids newsletter. I wanted to make the necessary improvements to my home and I knew that these programs were a great option because I would have the help of the City every step of the way."



Exterior before

Cassell utilized the Zero Interest Home Rehabilitation Deferred Loan, a program which uses federal Community Development



Exterior after

Block Grant (CDBG) funding. This program is designed to address the burden that low to moderate income families are dealing with as it relates to deteriorating home conditions. Residents who meet income guidelines are eligible to receive up to \$24,999 to improve the quality of their homes and make them more livable.

Cassell qualified for the CDBG loan and just weeks after the initial application process, she went ahead with several rehabilitation projects. Her enhancements include a new roof, new siding, insulation in the attic, restructuring of the deck, new tile in the bathroom to address mold concerns and lighting and plumbing fixes to bring the home up to safety standards. Billie

was also able to make the energy-saving improvements she wanted by installing an energy-efficient furnace and water heater.

"This Home Loan Program made it possible for me to love my home again and I'm saving money! Not only do things look better, but my home is finally more livable, which means I can spend another ten years here."

Funds are still available for low and moderate income homeowners. No monthly payments are required and up to 50 percent of the loan may be forgiven. To learn more about this program and other programs offered, contact the HousingResource Center™ at (651) 486-7401 or visit www.gmhchousing.org.



New energy-efficient furnace and water heater.



Making improvements to your home this year? Good timing! Through the Home for Generations II program, the City is offering grants, rebates, low-interest financing and subsidized consultations with architects to make your projects more affordable.

Maximum Grant: \$5,000

Minimum Project Amount: \$35,000

Rebate: 50% of building permit fees

Financing: 4.5% fixed up to \$50,000

Architectural Consultation: \$25 co-pay

Income Limit: None

Minimum Age of House: 20 years or more

Availability: First come, first served

To be eligible, your project must cost \$35,000 or more and must include either additional living space or the completion of major remodeling in your home. Projects that would qualify include: building an addition to your home, building a three season porch, finishing previously unfinished space in the basement or attic, constructing a covered front porch, converting a garage into livable space, major kitchen, bathroom or basement remodels, addition of a new bathroom, or moving walls of existing rooms. Additionally, eligible homes must be owner-occupied and homesteaded.

For more information or to apply, please contact Kristin at kdegrande@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6517, or visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/housing/homeforgenerationsII.htm.

Home Improvement Resources

Remodeling Advisor Visits offer FREE professional advice to help homeowners plan their dream remodel. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5856 or visit www.mncee.org.

Home improvement loans can help finance any remodeling project. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5884.

Down Payment Assistance is available through the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation. Contact Cheryl Bennett at the City of Coon Rapids at 763-767-6422 or cbennett@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Save the Date!

Coon Rapids Home Remodeling Tour

Sunday, May 18 • Noon – 4 p.m.

Get great ideas for your home by visiting several recent remodels in the city! Talk to the homeowners and share ideas! Watch for a mailing with more information soon!

Foley Boulevard Station Area Plan

The City of Coon Rapids is working with Hoisington Kogler Group on a planning process to determine future infrastructure needs and development patterns in the vicinity of the Foley Boulevard Park-and-Ride near Highway 610. This planning project will help the City prepare for future infrastructure investments that are planned in the area, including the Northern Lights Express high speed rail, future bus and rail service, and possible major road improvements. To date, several concepts have been prepared showing how the area might redevelop in the future. The planning project is funded by a \$40,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council. The goal of the grant program is to catalyze development around transit stations. A public meeting will be held this spring to obtain public input for the plan's recommendations. Learn the latest on the project by visiting the project website at www.foleyblvdstation.com.



FREE Business Advice

That's right...we really said FREE advice! How could you turn that down? If you are considering opening a business in Coon Rapids or if you are a current business owner who could use advice in everything from marketing and financial management to leasing or purchasing property, the "Open to Business" program is just for you!

Business Advisor Rob Smolund holds office hours at City Hall for walk-in appointments. He is available the third Tuesday of each month from 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Interested entrepreneurs can also schedule appointments at other times by calling Rob Smolund at 612-789-7337, ext. 260.

More information about this program can also be found online at www.opentobusinessmn.org



Financial Resources for Coon Rapids Businesses

The City of Coon Rapids offers a variety of financing options for projects that help achieve its development goals. These resources are administered by both the City and outside sources, including the Central Minnesota Development Company (CMDc), which is authorized to provide Small Business Administration loans and other loan products throughout Minnesota.

Business financing options include: the Commercial Fix-up Fund, the Coon Rapids Commercial/Industrial Loan Fund, and the CMDc Initiative Fund. For more information visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/economicdev or contact Mike Mulrooney at the Central Minnesota Development Company at 763-784-3337.

Other Business News:

- **Aspen Dental** will be opening a new location at 3550 River Rapids Road.
- **Dollar Tree** will be moving into the former Walgreens Space located near Goodwill along Coon Rapids Boulevard.
- **Planet Fitness** has opened a new location in the former Bed Bath & Beyond store near Northtown.
- **Walmart Riverdale** is planning a major renovation which will include the addition of more grocery space.
- **Caribou Coffee** opened a new location at 1835 Gateway Drive.

Police News

Chili Fundraiser for Police K-9

The Coon Rapids Crime Prevention Association is grateful to the community for their outpouring of support in the effort to raise funds for a second police K-9 for the Coon Rapids Police Department. We are almost to our goal! Several civic organizations are working to help raise the remaining funds needed for the dog. The public is invited to an upcoming chili event to help in this effort.

So who really does make the best chili? Come find out as members of the Coon Rapids Police and Fire Departments, Coon Rapids Lions, Northstar Lions, Coon Rapids Kiwanis, Coon Rapids VFW and the Coon Rapids Rotary gather their best cooks in the kitchen to put on a stellar event! Vote for the best chili and see who wins!

Sunday, May 18

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Coon Rapids VFW

1919 Coon Rapids Blvd. NW

Cost: \$8 adults, \$4 children



CRPD K-9 Buddy,
who will soon have a new
crime-fighting partner.

The Coon Rapids Police Department currently has one canine team, which is used for a variety of police activities and investigations.

For more information visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/police.

Storage Unit Burglaries Solved

Coon Rapids Police are pleased to report a recent rash of storage unit burglaries has been solved! Two people have been charged with three counts of theft for allegedly stealing items from 60 storage units in the city. The thefts occurred during the month of December and the items stolen totaled more than \$34,000. The items stolen include everything from guns and swords to movies, electronics and sports memorabilia. Thanks to the work of the lead detective on the case, many items were recovered and returned to their rightful owners. The two suspects involved confessed to police.



Coon Rapids Police say if you do store items in an off-site storage unit, be sure to use a heavy-duty, durable locking system and consider storing items that are not high in value. Storage unit owners were able to collect their items from Coon Rapids City Hall in February.

Save the Date!

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

*Are you ready to participate in
the fight against crime?*

This annual event brings neighbors together to get to know each other, talk about their neighborhoods and connect with members of the Coon Rapids Police and Fire departments.



Register for Night to Unite - Beginning April 1, 2014

- **IN PERSON** at the Coon Rapids Police Department located at 11155 Robinson Drive NW (763-767-6481)
- **ONLINE** at: www.coonrapidsmn.gov/police/nighttounite.htm



Free Car Seats Available

Saturday, April 12, 2014

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Coon Rapids Police Department

Free car seats are available to families who qualify under income guidelines. Seats are available for infants up to children age 8.

By appointment only.

Call Officer Dez Toninato at 763-767-6488.

Coon Rapids residents only.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 21 – 25, 2014

The perfect time to practice your severe weather emergency plan!

Thursday, April 24 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

Outdoor warning sirens will sound

For more information on severe weather preparedness, visit: www.ready.gov

Department History - The Early Years

(Part one of a four part series)

The Coon Rapids Fire Department was organized on March 17, 1953 by a group of civic-minded citizens. One month later, the first piece of apparatus was placed in service, a 1938 Mack COE tandem axle tanker with a capacity of 2600 gallons of water. In October of 1953, the Department purchased a 1947 Willys Jeep for fighting grass fires, and in August of 1954, the Department purchased its first fire engine, a 1940 GMC/American LaFrance 500 gpm pumper. This engine was originally purchased in the early years of World War II for the protection of the Dupont ammunition plant in Morgantown, West Virginia. It was eventually sold to Coon Rapids as government surplus. By the end of the 1950s, the Fire Department had purchased three additional pieces of apparatus: a 1949 four wheel drive Jeep, a 1947 Dodge rescue truck and a 1958 GMC tanker. In the early years, the Fire Department was averaging 200 runs per year and serving a population of approximately 14,000 citizens.

At the time, Coon Rapids did not have a fire station, so meetings were held at the Coon Rapids School (later known as L.O. Jacob School and River Trail Learning Center.) Equipment was also stored here. A new Fire Station 1 on Highway 10 (now Coon Rapids Boulevard) opened in 1955. The building was also home to the Coon Rapids Liquor store. Although no longer a fire station, the building still stands today.

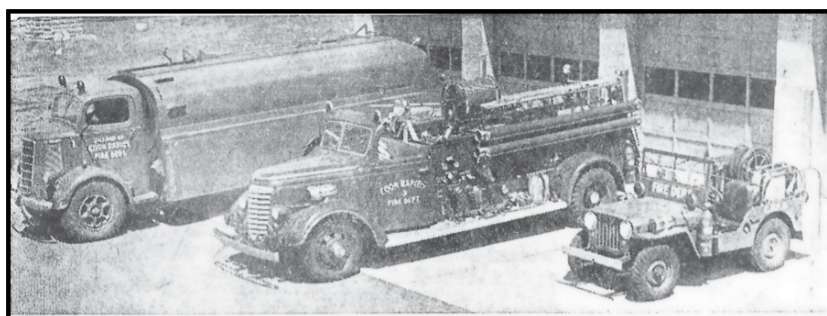
In February of 1958, the Fire Underwriter Inspection Bureau recommended building two additional fire stations due to the population growth in the area and because of the locations of many neighborhoods which were spread out in the city. Plans were put in place to build two more stations, which occurred in later years (more to come on that in part two of our series). By the end of 1959, the Department consisted of 31 members. That number is similar today; the department has 31 career firefighters and 19 paid on-call members.

Coon Rapids Fire Department Members – 1954

The first known photo of the members of the Coon Rapids Fire Dept. taken in 1954



Front row (L-R): Don Jacobson, Frank Miller, Glenn Haven, Herb Gunther, Leo George, Howard Fleury, Walt Eberhart, Wes Swanson, Bob Hayford, Lester Palmer, Harold Bartholow
Back row (L-R): Vern Brock, George Lamberton, Russ Mueller, John Misko, Norm Beckwall, Don Olson, Ralph Nelson, Tom Scheie, Arnie Strand, Jim Whitehead, Bill Doolittle



Apparatus in front of Fire Station 1 – 1938 Mack/1940 GMC/ 1947 Jeep

Recreational Fires

The fire department receives many questions related to recreational fires. Here's a helpful reminder of what is and what IS NOT allowed:

- Recreational fires are allowed without a permit.
- Recreational fires cannot exceed three feet in diameter.
- Flame height should be approximately three feet.
- Bonfires are not permitted.
- Only clean, dry wood can be used.
- No burning of leaves or other debris.
- Fire extinguishing supplies such as a hose, shovel and bucket must be ready at all times.

- Fires must be 25 feet from any structure.
- A responsible adult must be present at all times.
- Burning is allowed from 8 a.m. to midnight any day of the week, with a maximum burn of 6 hours.
- Please make sure the smoke from your fire is not going into your neighbor's home. If it is, please extinguish the fire.

Any police or fire personnel may withdraw permission for the fires due to climatic conditions, extreme dryness, nuisance problems or violations of the guidelines.

Fines and/or tickets may be issued for burning debris, construction materials, yard waste, etc. If you have questions about recreational fires, call 763-767-6429. Illegal fires should be reported to 911.





Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

The Senior Center will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday, April 22. Last year, volunteers contributed over 30,000 hours to the Senior Center. Pictured here is Gloria Waskey assembling Twins baseball cards to be distributed by metro police officers at an upcoming Twins game!

Senior Dining Meals

Senior Dining Meals are available at noon, Monday thru Thursday, at the Coon Rapids Senior Center. For reservations, call (763) 767-6524 at least three business days in advance. The meal price is a suggested donation of \$4.00 (however, no eligible person will be denied a meal because of an inability to contribute). Everyone 60 or older is welcome!



Minnesota Safety Council Defensive Driving Courses

By attending a MN Safety Council Defensive Driving Course, individuals 55+ years of age with a valid driver's license can receive a 10% automobile insurance discount for three years. Those taking the course for the first time must attend an 8-hour session. Returning drivers can take a 4-hour refresher course. These classes fill up early. Registration and payment must be received 2 weeks prior to the class. Classes take place at the Coon Rapids Senior Center. Call (763) 767-6473 to register or get a complete listing of classes.

4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE: \$20.00

Monday, April 28: 5:30—9:30 p.m.

Monday, May 5: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday, May 19: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

8-HOUR COURSE: \$22.00

Mondays, June 2 & 9: 5:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Senior LinkAge Line

1-800-333-2433

Your link to senior services and health insurance counseling.

www.MinnesotaHelp.info



Wacky Wednesdays

Starting in June, Wacky Wednesdays will be back. Bring your grandchild (or special friend) to the senior center for a morning of activity that includes a theme, snack, game, craft and other fun!

Senior Newsletter Delivery

There are four ways to receive your Voice of Experience Senior Newsletter from Coon Rapids Senior Services:

1. Online free at the City of Coon Rapids Website www.coonrapidsmn.gov
2. Emailed free to your email address
3. Pick up a free copy at CRSS
4. Mailed to your address
(a donation of \$10.00 per year is suggested)

For more information call (763) 767-6473.



Golf Patron Cards Available for Purchase

It's been a long winter! Why not plan for your next golf event as soon as the course is ready! Purchase your Golf Patron Card now. The benefits of purchasing a patron card include:

- A complimentary round of golf
- 18-hole rate reductions
- 9-hole rate reductions
- Executive course greens fee reduction
- Advance tee-times

To purchase a patron card, visit
www.bunkerhillsgolf.com



golfTEC is open
for private lessons.

Call 612-424-9251
or visit
bunkerhillsgolf.com



Open for lunch and
dinner every day! Make
reservations now for
Easter and Mother's
Day brunch!

Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Golf Shop: 763-755-4141

golfTEC: 612-424-9251

Harvest Grill: 763-755-1234



25th Annual Ice Fantasy "Silver Jubilee"

Skaters from Coon Rapids and surrounding communities will be performing to a variety of music as they present "Silver Jubilee, a tribute to 25 years of ice shows." The show features several skating performances including the Father-Daughter number featuring 20 couples.

Event dates:

Fri., April 25 – 7:00 p.m.
Sat., April 26 – 6:30 p.m.
Sun., April 27 – 2:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased
at the door.

Adults: \$7.00

Students & Seniors: \$5.00

Age 4 & under: FREE



Featured Skater: US National Competitor Alexander Johnson

Johnson started out skating in his backyard at age three and now he's the 2013 International Challenge Cup silver medalist! He is originally from Minnetonka, but now trains in Colorado Springs. This skater is also a four time U.S. Senior National competitor, and a 2013 Midwestern silver medalist. In addition to skating, Johnson has a passion for music of all genres. His other interests include waterskiing, swimming, four wheeling and running. Come see some spectacular skating during his guest performances at all three Ice Fantasy shows.



Coon Rapids Ice Center

11000 Crooked Lake Blvd. • 763-951-7222
WWW.COONRAPIDSICECENTER.COM



Sign up Now for Summer Recreation

The Anoka Hennepin Community Schools program provides fun activities and learning opportunities for children right in your own backyard! Summer programming features a wide variety of activities including:

- Arts and crafts
- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
- Language and performing arts
- Sports and recreation
- Aquatics and open swim
- Field trips

The summer youth catalog will be available in April at www.discovercommunityed.com. Classes and activities are scheduled June – July at schools in Anoka and Coon Rapids. Please call 763-506-4812 with questions or for more information.

"The Element" Teen Center

11747 Crocus Street
(at Riverwind Park)

Tues & Thurs: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 6 – 9 p.m.

Come socialize, play games, watch movies and have fun with kids your age in a safe, supervised environment.

Northtown Library Closed During Renovations

Northtown Library is closed for renovations until late June 2014. The facility will be improved to include a drive-thru book return, larger children's room, a teen room, more computers, more conference rooms, accessible restrooms and a more flexible plan to prepare for the future needs of residents. All seven of the other Anoka County libraries will be open during the Northtown closure.

For more information regarding the renovations, visit www.anokacountylibrary.org/renovation



Anoka County Head Start Preschool

Head Start is available in Anoka County for low-income families with children up to age five. There is no cost to families. Families on County Assistance (MFIP), Supplemental Social Security, Foster Children and families who meet the income eligibility guidelines are eligible for Head Start.

To request an application call 763-783-4300, TTY 763-783-4724, Spanish 763-783-4390.

Register Now for Preschool

Anoka-Hennepin Community Education School Readiness Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year. The program offers a curriculum that is aligned with the district kindergarten curriculum.

Classes are held from September to May throughout the Anoka-Hennepin School District. Morning, afternoon and evening times are available. Registration information is available online at www.DiscoverCommunityEd.com or by phone at 763-506-1500.

Kindergarten Readiness Preschool

The Anoka-Hennepin School District Kindergarten Readiness Preschool is for children who will be four years old by September 1, 2014. Classes meet September 2014 to June 2015, Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon for 2 ¾ hours per day.

There is no cost for eligible families who meet income guidelines. Transportation is provided. For more information on locations and to see if your child qualifies, please call 763-433-4650.



Other News

Cheat Sheet to City Code

Codes are the standards developed by the City Council to keep Coon Rapids a safe and desirable place to live, but it is often difficult to know all of the requirements. The codes which are most often misunderstood include:

1. **Grass.** No part of your yard (grass or weeds) can be any taller than 8" in height (City code 8-500).

2. **Parking.** All vehicles, trailers, boats and other similar equipment must be parked on an

improved surface (NOT on any part of the grass or class 5 rock) in the front or side yard (City code 11-602 and 11-603). They must also be operational (not taken apart, missing parts) and with current registration and tabs (City code 11-601 and 12-306). For questions about installing a driveway or other parking areas, call Building Inspections at 763-767-6476.

3. **Exterior Storage.** Building materials, car parts/tires, appliances, inoperable lawn mowers or bikes, couches or other indoor furniture, miscellaneous debris, or any other item not intended for outdoor use cannot be stored in your yard or on your driveway. Items must be stored in your house, garage or shed (City code 8-100).

4. **Garbage Service.** All homes are required to have garbage collection service (City code 8-200).

5. **House Numbers.** Have you recently resided your home? All buildings must have address numbers installed so the fire and police departments can quickly locate your home in an emergency (City code 10-106).

6. **Pools.** All pools with at least 24" of water must be completely enclosed with a 4' high fence and gate (City code 12-500).

7. **Garage Sales.** You may have 6 or fewer garage sales per calendar year, and each sale is limited to four days or less (City code 11-601).

Recycling Review

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

New Hours in 2014!

Due to increased demand, the Recycling Center is now open five days a week to serve your needs!

APRIL-OCTOBER

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday: 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Coon Rapids is a Minnesota GreenStep City

Coon Rapids recently became part of the Minnesota GreenStep City program, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. GreenStep is a free, continuous improvement program managed by a public-private partnership and based upon 28 best practices.

Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction and encourage civic innovation.



**Minnesota
GreenStep Cities**

The City of Coon Rapids has been categorized as a class “A” city based on its size and makeup of employees and properties. A recent audit within city departments has identified 14 of the 28 steps completed. Once these steps are recorded within the GreenStep program, Coon Rapids will qualify for step 2 in the program.

This program offers clear goals for city-wide sustainability in various areas. It will also help provide a framework for future projects and initiatives. Currently, Coon Rapids is the second city in Anoka County to become part of the GreenStep Cities program.

Anoka County Compost Site

Bring your compost to the Anoka County compost site located at 13285 Hanson Boulevard, Coon Rapids. The facility will open for the season on April 1, weather permitting.

Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (or sunset if earlier)
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 5 p.m.

Fees apply. For more information visit www.anokacounty.org then click on “Integrated Waste Management” on the departments tab.



Coon Rapids Recycling Center
1831 – 111th Avenue, Coon Rapids, MN 55433
(763) 767-6485

60 and 40 Watt Bulbs Now Banned

You may not realize that new legislation for 2014 has made standard incandescent 60 and 40 watt light bulbs obsolete. In order to comply with efficiency standards outlined in the Energy Independence and Security Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush in 2007, it is now illegal to manufacture or import the bulbs as of December 31, 2013. Retailers are still allowed to sell any remaining stock.



The old incandescent bulbs are inefficient. Only about 10 percent of the bulb's energy output is converted into light; the rest is lost to heat, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Just remember...when you replace those old incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient CFL bulbs (Compact Fluorescent Lights) you'll need to recycle the CFL bulbs when they no longer work. The Coon Rapids Recycling Center is happy to accept your CFL bulbs.

The Fix-it Clinic

May 3, 2014 • 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Andover Community Center • 15200 Hanson Blvd. NW

Don't throw it out – Fix it. This event utilizes volunteers to help you disassemble, troubleshoot and repair your broken items. The Fix-It Clinic can reduce some of what gets thrown into the trash and can teach basic repair skills and build community connections.

Are you a tinkerer? Do you like to help people learn how to fix things? Volunteer fixers are needed to make this initiative a success. Volunteers should have skills in soldering, electronics and electrical repair, small appliances, motors and circuitry, lamp re-wiring, mechanical and gluing, sewing and general tinkering.

Please contact Cindy DeRuyter at c.deruyter@andovermn.gov or 763-767-5114 with questions or to volunteer.

Events

Rabies Vaccination Clinic

NEW DATE!

Saturday, May 10th, 2014

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The City of Coon Rapids is sponsoring the annual rabies vaccination clinic to facilitate compliance with ordinances regarding dog licenses, cat registrations and rabies vaccinations.

Locations:

- Fire Station #1, 1460 Egret Boulevard
- Fire Station #2, 1199 – 121st Avenue NW
- Fire Station #3, 2831 – 113th Avenue NW

Fees:

- Rabies vaccination: \$9.00
- Dog license (2014): \$10.00
- Cat registration: no charge

All services provided by Foley Boulevard Animal Hospital.

Other vaccinations (e.g. distemper, Lyme, bordetella, etc.) available at additional cost. Cat ID tags must be provided by the owner. Dogs must maintain current rabies vaccinations. Cash or check only.

All animals must be leashed at the clinic.

If you have any questions, call the City Clerk's office at clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6432.



The Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation and the City of Coon Rapids will be sponsoring two "Movie in the Park" events in 2014.

Dates: Friday, May 23

Friday, August 8

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Where: Sand Creek Park,
Softball Field 2

The movie will begin at dusk. The movie selection is not yet finalized but it will be family friendly. Bring a blanket and some snacks and enjoy these FREE evenings of entertainment! More details: www.coonrapidsmn.gov in late April.

Summer Concerts at the Coon Rapids Dam

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission and the Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation are proud to present the Thursday Nites LIVE! concert series this summer at the Coon Rapids Dam.

Featured Performers:

- June 5 • High 48s – Bluegrass
- June 12 • Sherwin Linton Entertainment - Country
- June 19 • Erin Schwab – Cabaret Variety
- June 26 • Minneapolis Commodores – Barbershop Harmony
- July 10 • MN Sinfonia - Symphony
- July 17 • Ecuador Manta - Ecuadorian
- July 24 • D.L. Cajun Band - Cajun
- July 31 • Holy Rocka Rollaz – 50's
- August 7 • The Tony Garry Band – Variety

Concerts are possible thanks to a generous donation from Shortstop Bar & Grill (with locations in Coon Rapids and Fridley).

The concerts take place at 7 p.m. at the performance pavilion, rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy an evening of FREE entertainment. Anoka County Parks waives the \$5.00 parking fee for the evening. Food is also available for purchase.

Special Concert Event:

August 16 • Rockie Lynne at Sand Creek Park

Watch for more details in the summer newsletter!

Service Directory

Police and Fire: 911

City Center:

763-755-2880

Assessing:

763-767-6446

Building Inspections:

763-767-6476

Bunker Hills Golf Club:

763-755-4141

CTN Studios: (Cable TV Dept.)

763-767-6525

Civic Center:

763-767-6522

Code Enforcement:

763-767-6470

Coon Rapids Ice Center:

763-951-7222

Engineering Department:

763-767-6465

Fire Administration:

763-767-6429

Job Hotline:

763-767-6597

Planning and Zoning:

763-767-6430

Police Administration:

763-767-6481

Public Works:

763-767-6462

Senior Services:

763-767-6473

Utility Billing:

763-767-6438

Fax:

763-767-6491

General questions:

mail@coonrapidsmn.gov

Newsletter comments & information:

Stephanie Ring

Communications & Mktg Coordinator

763-767-6582

sring@coonrapidsmn.gov

This is the official newsletter of the City of Coon Rapids which is distributed to all homes and businesses in the City. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper containing at least 30% post-consumer paper fibers using soy-based ink. (Circulation 25,909)

